

The NCI Cancer Centers Program

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<http://cancer.gov/cancercenters/>

Purpose

- The purpose of the NCI Cancer Centers Program is “to foster excellence in research across a broad spectrum of scientific and medical concerns relevant to cancer” and “to extend the benefits of research to patients, their families, and the general public through clinical care, outreach, and education.”

Policy of inclusion

- Requires that a cancer center exploit all of the institution's capabilities and integrate these into a single interdisciplinary cancer center research enterprise crossing departmental, school, and other boundaries.

The Cancer Center Support Grant (P30)

- Funds Center infrastructure and development, for the purpose of:
 - Providing organizational focus and structure
 - Stimulating, organizing, and coordinating the competitive cancer research base into interdisciplinary Research Programs
 - Providing access to quality and cost-effective technologies, services, and scientific consultation that facilitate interaction and enhance scientific productivity
- Does not fund research projects

Categories of NCI-Designated Centers

- 38 Comprehensive Centers (reasonable depth and breadth of interactive basic, clinical and population sciences as well as outreach, education, and information to community)
- 22 Cancer Centers (primary focus in basic, clinical or population research or a combination of these areas)

Geographic Distribution

- 60 Centers in 31/50 states and DC
 - Comprehensive: 22 states and DC
 - Cancer Centers: 16 states
- Multiple Centers in 13 states
- 2/3 east of Mississippi

Organization

- Free-standing (e.g., MSKI, MDACC)
- Matrix: Single academic institution with affiliate hospitals (e.g., Duke, UCLA)
- Matrix Consortium: Multiple academic/free-standing institutions (e.g., Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center)

Funding

- CCSG Awards
 - \$2 to \$11 million per year
 - Five year award period
 - Not an entitlement, but difficult to lose

Requirements

- Cancer relevant research base of at least \$4,000,000
- Strength in the Six Essential Characteristics
 - Cancer focus
 - Institutional Commitment
 - Authority of Center Director
 - Interdisciplinary/Translational Research
 - Facilities
 - Organizational Capabilities

Funded Components

- Major Components
 - Interdisciplinary Research Programs
 - Shared Resources
 - Organization and Administration
 - Administration
 - Planning and evaluation
 - Senior leadership
 - Developmental funds
 - Protocol Review and Monitoring System
 - Protocol – Specific Research Support

Current/Future Directions

- Fostering mechanisms for integration of centers with other research 'delivery' systems in their own catchment areas
- Fostering infrastructure for collaborative research efforts across centers
- Fostering proactive research dissemination efforts